W1T2CF 1.2 V1

SITE ID: WAD009041450
COUNTY: Cowlitz
PRIORITY ASSESSMENT: Low
DATE REVISED: 1-22-85

NAME AND LOCATION:

Weyerhauser Company, Chlor-Alkali Plant
3000 Industrial Way
Longview, WA 98632

CONTACT: Weyerhauser
TELEPHONE: (206) 425-2150

SITE DESCRIPTION/TSD FACILITIES:

The Weyerhauser Company operated a chlor-alkali plant which utilized the mercury cell process. Mercury laden wastes were discharged into the Columbia River from 1956-1970. After this, contaminated sludges were ponded in unlined pits which contaminated soils and potentially groundwater.

WASTE TYPE/QUALITIES/CHARACTERISTICS:

Approximately 93.5 lbs. of mercury was lost from the chlor-alkali plant each day. Wastes contaminated with mercury and zinc were disposed of in sewers and directly into the Columbia River.

PHYSICAL/SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT:

Site overlies deep sandy loam well draining river type soils, and is located on the edge of the Columbia River. Groundwater flow is towards the Columbia River, depth of groundwater is unknown. The chlor-alkali plant is located downstream in the same complex as a pulp mill and wood products plan owned by Weyerhauser. The site is located in an industrialized area. There is a dense population including a school, reservoir and municipal water system three? miles from the site, however, since movement of groundwater is towards the river, it is highly unlikely that contamination would affect this area.

POLLUTANT MOBILIZATION/PATHWAYS/RISK:

Soils and groundwater around the chlor-alkali site may be contaminated with mercury and zinc. The Columbia River sediments may be heavily contaminated due to excessive discharge of mercury and zinc contaminated wastes into the river.

The Columbia River acts as a barrier to contamination across the river to the north and pulls groundwater towards the river, eliminating concern for migration of contaminants to public drinking wells on either side.

PRIORITY ASSESSMENT/BACKLOG REDUCTION CATEGORY:

Medium

FOLLOWUP RECOMMENDATIONS:

A complete sampling analysis of soils, groundwater, river sediments and resident fish for mercury and zinc contamination should be affected in order to determine the extent of contamination at this site. If contamination is found to be extensive, this site may be considered for inclusion to the National Priority List.